National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

823

OMB No. 1024-0018
SEP 04 2009

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

istoric nameCarl	Stroschein House			
ther names/site number	er The Little Yellow	House		
Location				
treet & number 31682	El Camino Real		□ not for	publication N/A
ty or town San Juan (A . W. S			cinity N/A
		unty Orange	code <u>059</u> zip cod	1.1
		unity <u>Grange</u>	code <u>555</u> 21p cod	02010
State/Federal Agency	Certification			
Signature of certifying office California Office of Historic State or Federal agency a	c Preservation nd bureau	Date	ia. (□ See continuation sheet for a	dditional
Signature of commenting	or other official	Date	_	
State or Federal agency a	nd bureau	1		
National Park Service	Certification	100		
ereby certify that this property entered in the National F See continuation determined eligible for the National Register See continuation determined not eligible for National Register removed from the National Register	Register sheet.	Signature of the K	Booll	Date of Action

F. Olassification			_
5. Classification			_
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply) private building(s) district site structure object	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.) Contributing Noncontributing		
	☐ district☐ site☐ structure	2buildings0sites0structures0objects2Total	
Name of related multiple pro (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a	perty listing multiple property listing.)	Number of contributing resources previously list the National Register	ed in
N/A	1	0	
6. Function or Use			
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)		Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	
7. Description Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions) None		Domestic	
		Materials (Enter categories from instructions) foundationwood/ concrete	
		walls wood/ false bevel drop siding other	

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

NPS Form 10-900-a OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

(8-86) United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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Carl Stroschein House

Orange County, California

Summary:

The Carl Stroschein House is a single story, 650 square foot residential building with false bevel drop siding. Its roof pitch and porch arrangement has some Tudor elements but the building does not have a particular architectural style. The house and the garage were built in 1927 by Carl Stroschein and his brother, Fred Stroschein. Both buildings are original and have no exterior alterations and are in excellent condition. It is located on a rectangular lot (60 x 120) that was part of the original 40 acres that William F. Stroschein Sr. bought from the Archdiocese of Los Angeles in 1887. The property faces West onto El Camino Real, on the North side is Spring Street. Next to the house on the back of the property (East) is a small garage with a storage room that is attached on the West side.

Exterior:

The basic shape of the house is rectangular with prominent cross-gables in the front and rear. The exterior walls on both buildings (house and garage) are false bevel drop siding. The roof is modified cross gabled. The front entrance of the house (West side) has a small porch that is flared to one side. A brick chimney is located along the north wall. The kitchen wing (East side), under the rear cross-gable, has a door that opens to a small landing with stairs to the yard. On the South side attached to the kitchen is the door to the basement that runs the length of the kitchen. The windows are original wood sash windows. On the front of the house, 3 windows are six over one. Windows on the North side are four over one. The rest of the windows on the East and South side are one over one. All windows are double hung. On the South side, below the gable is a small louver that ventilates the attic.

The garage is set apart from the house (East side). The roof has a moderate pitch. One side of the roof extends over the space of the utility room. The exterior walls are the same false bevel drop siding as the house and its architecture is complementary to the design of the house. The total width of the garage including the utility room is 20°. The utility room by itself is 8° wide and 20°long. The garage door is approximately 7 feet wide and has 2 doors that swing out. On the South side is a small window for ventilation. On the East side of the utility room are 2 small windows —one over one, on the South side is one window, one over one. The garage, the door and the windows are unaltered and original.

Interior:

The front door of the house opens directly onto the living room that has a brick fireplace. One bedroom is off the living room on the south/west corner. A second small bedroom and the bathroom are on the south side and connect with a very small hallway to the kitchen.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

The kitchen has a small dining area located above the basement on the South/East corner. The cabinets and hinges in the kitchen are original. One of the cabinets on the North side has a "cold cupboard" that allows air to circulate from basement through a screen into that particular kitchen cupboard. Cold air from below kept food in the cabinet cool. On the wall in the kitchen is the original fuse box. A small crawl hole to reach the attic is in the hallway by the bathroom. The attic is for ventilation only. The floors are wood with the exception of the bathroom and kitchen that have vinyl flooring.

Landscape:

The yard surrounding the Stroschein House has several very old trees.

On the South/West corner on El Camino Real is a large Brazilian Pepper Tree.

On the North/West corner of El Camino Real and Spring Street is a very large Magnolia Tree. Two large Cypress Trees are on the Northside on Spring Street

On the North/East corner of the house is a very old Camelia Bush.

Between the kitchen and the garage (Eastside) is an English Walnut Tree that dates back to the 1920s when walnuts were one of the main crops in the San Juan Capistrano area. Next to the Walnut Tree is an old Orange/Tangerine Tree.

Name of Property: Carl Stroschein House		County and State Orange, CA
8. St	atement of Significance	
Appli (Mark	cable National Register Criteria 'x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property ional Register listing)	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
A Property is associated with events that have made	Social History	
a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.		Politics/Government
⊠в	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or		
represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack	artistic values, or represents a significant and	Period of Significance
□ D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.	1938-1953
	ria Considerations X" in all the boxes that apply.)	Significant Dates
Prope	erty is:	
ПА	owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	Significant Person
□в	removed from its original location.	(Complete if Criterion B is marked above) Stroschein, Carl
□с	a birthplace or a grave.	Cultural Affiliation
□ D	a cemetery.	NA NA
ΠE	a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	
□F	a commemorative property.	Architect/Builder
□G	less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.	Stroschein, Fred and Carl
	tive Statement of Significance n the significance of the property on one or more continuation shee	
9. Ma	ajor Bibliographical References	
	books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on	one or more continuation sheets.)
	ous documentation on file (NPS): preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested. previously listed in the National Register previously determined eligible by the National Register designated a National Historic Landmark recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey	Primary Location of Additional Data State Historic Preservation Office Other State agency Federal agency Local government University Other Name of repository:

#_____ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #_____

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Orange County, C	A	

Statement of Significance:

Summary:

The Carl Stroschein House is a candidate for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B. It was the home and office of Carl Louis Stroschein during his tenure as the last elected Constable in the San Juan Township. As the last elected constable of San Juan Township, Stroschein represents the end of an era in Orange County's law enforcement and judicial system. The transition from elected citizen constables to a professionalized municipal law enforcement system was an example of San Juan Capistrano's transition from a remote farming community into a town more integrated into Orange County. Carl Stroschein served from 1938 until 1953, longer than any other Constable of San Juan Township. As Constable, he was responsible for the safety of the community of San Juan Capistrano and a large area of Southern Orange County, especially during the Second World War. After he retired he continued farming and lived at the house until his death in 1957. The house was built in 1927 on a small piece of property that was part of the Stroschein Ranch that dates back to 1887. It is unaltered and in its original location. The period of significance, from 1938 until 1952, reflects the period when it was used as the Constable's office in addition to his residence.

Historical Background:

Carl Louis Stroschein was born in San Juan Capistrano Nov. 25, 1902, the son of William and Frederika Stroschein. He attended the local schools and after graduating went to work for his father on the 40 acre ranch the Stroscheins owned. He married Reducinda (Ruth) Nieblas (born Sept. 8, 1906) in San Juan Capistrano, July 23, 1923. During their first few years of marriage, Carl and Ruth lived in a small house in the Los Rios Historic District, next to her parents Joseph and Francesca Nieblas. They had two daughters: Marie Charlotte (1924) and Virginia Jean (1926).

In 1927 Carl Stroschein with the help of his brother Fred who was a contractor, built the Little Yellow House for himself and his wife Ruth. In later years, Fred Stroschein built most of the Spanish Colonial Revival homes that are located on Mission Hill in San Juan Capistrano.

The site where the Little Yellow House is located was carved out of the 40 acre Stroschein Ranch that his father William F. Stroschein owned since 1887.

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While active in farming with his father, Carl decided to run for the position of Constable for the San Juan Township and was elected in 1938, a position he held until 1953. According to records in the Orange County Archives, Carl ran unopposed and was elected with 808 votes. The Orange County Records show that he was in office from 1938-1953.

The San Juan Township boundaries, which Constable Stroschein patrolled, included El Toro on the North, San Juan Hot Springs on the East, the County line on the South, (except for San Clemente, which was incorporated) and the ocean on the West as far as South Laguna.

The Orange County Sheriff's Department traces its history back to 1889, when Orange County was formed from the southern portion of Los Angeles County. The townships of Santa Ana and San Juan were established. Constables were elected to assist with the day-to-day business of the Justice Courts and the Justice's of the Peace.

Constables were governed by direction of the Civil Code and Code of Civil Procedure. In larger townships, the work of the Constable is similar to that of the Sheriff. They were charged with the duties of preserving the peace, preventing and suppressing riots, and investigating public offenses which have been committed within the township. An elected Constable's term of office was six years.

By 1943, eleven Constables and corresponding Justice Courts existed in the eleven townships of Orange County. These eleven existed until January. 1, 1953 when Santa Ana, Orange and Tustin courts were combined to create the Santa Ana – Orange Municipal Court and Anaheim, Fullerton and Brea Townships were consolidated to create the North Municipal Court District. The remaining Justice Courts were consolidated to leave three courts with three Constables that later were absorbed into the County of Orange Sheriff's or Marshal's office.

Carl Stroschein, being the last of the elected Constables, terminated his career in 1953 after serving the San Juan Township for over 15 years.

Carl had his office in the "Little Yellow House." He was well respected in the town and well known not to take "No" for an answer. His work as a Constable included solving family disputes and quite often he had to take unruly drunks in his car to the Santa Ana Jail. Only once was he physically attacked by a drunk with a knife, Carl knocked the knife out of his attackers hand-

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while the locals watched and promptly took him to the Santa Ana Jail.

During WW II Carl was in charge of all the police work in his large district and he worked closely with Marco Forster the Justice of the Peace. On December 19, 1941 Carl Stroschein and 4 other San Juan residents organized a civilian defense council. Under his leadership an observation tower was constructed, fashioned from an old water tower. Classes were held to instruct people in first aid and how to disarm bombs. At the same time a government edict ordered him to search every Japanese family in the area to confiscate weapons- it did not matter if he knew them and could vouch for their loyalty.

An exciting day happened for Carl Stroschein on September 25, 1942. He and other sheriff units were informed that the President of the United States, Franklin Delano Roosevelt would arrive on a special train in San Juan Capistrano and were told that it was top secret. Carl Stroschein being the local Constable was in charge. Rumors of the Presidents visit started circulating around town when a large contingent of soldiers jumped off trucks and began to station themselves along the railroad tracks, at road crossings and other strategic points in San Juan Capistrano. By the time the secret visitor pulled into the station and entered his limousine everybody in town had lined the streets to catch a glimpse of the President. From San Juan Capistrano the President continued to Camp Pendleton. The reason for the Presidents trip was to visit Camp Pendleton that is very close to San Juan Capistrano. In July of 1942 the U.S. Navy acquired the 133,000 acre Santa Margarita Ranch to be used as a Marine Corps Center.

After his career as Constable ended in 1953, he continued with farming until his death on February 5, 1957, having been in charge of the farm since his father's death in 1915.

Carl's father originally came from Germany and came to California in 1885 locating first in Anaheim, Orange County. There he met his future wife Frederika Schneipp. They were married in 1886. Neither William nor Frederika had any relatives in the USA. William first found employment working on local farms in the Anaheim area and later rented a twenty acre vineyard that at first was very successful until blight ruined the entire vineyard. After losing the vineyard, he and his wife moved to San Juan Capistrano. In 1887 William Stroschein purchased 40 Acres from the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, recorded as Mission Tracts 4 and 5. This purchase was only possible with the help of a friend of William, who was a Catholic Bishop. William and his wife were Lutherans and it was most difficult for non-Catholics to buy land from the Archdiocese.

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They built their house on what is today the northeast corner of Ortega Hwy. and El Camino Real. The house was big to accommodate the Stroscheins and their 10 children: Arnold (who died at a very young age), William Sr., Fred, Frank, Carl, Herbert, Wilma, Clara, Flora and Pauline. William died in 1915. Frederika continued living in the house until her death in Feb. 1955. The house no longer exists- it was demolished in 1959.

Carl Louis Stroschein was a farmer most of his life, assisting his father William F. Stroschein to grow walnuts on his property. San Juan Capistrano was well known as one of the major walnut growing areas in Southern California. The turn of the century showed a decline in the walnut industry and many growers in San Juan Capistrano like William F. Stroschein replaced walnut trees with oranges and avocados. What is left today of the former 40 Acre Stroschein Ranch that was located in the center of town and adjacent to the Mission is the "Little Yellow House" that still has a couple of the original Valencia Orange Trees and one English Walnut Tree in the yard.

After Carl's death in 1957, his widow Ruth moved from the "Little Yellow House" to a home in San Juan Terrace and when she died the properties were inherited by her daughter's husbands T.J. Meadows and David Gunter. The San Juan Terrace home went to David Gunter and the "Little Yellow House" to the family of T.J. Meadows who still own this historic house today.

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Carl Stroschein House
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Bibliography:

Armor, Samuel, . <u>History of Orange County, California</u>, with biographical scetches. Los Angeles, 1911

Cal. State Fullerton, San Juan Capistrano History Project, 1978

Hallan-Gibson, Pamela, <u>Dos Cientos Anos en San Juan Capistrano</u>. Lehmann Publishing Co., 1975

Hallan-Gibson, Pamela, <u>Two Hundred Years in San Juan Capistrano</u>, A Pictorial History, The Paragon Agency Publishers, Orange, CA. 1990

Hallan-Gibson, Pamela, Don Tryon, Mary Ellen Tryon and the San Juan Historical Society, <u>Images of America</u>, San Juan Capistrano, Arcadia Publishing , 2005

McAlester, Virginia & Lee, <u>A Field Guide to American Houses</u>, Alfred A. Knopf, New York 1997

Tryon, Mary Ellen, A Guide to Historic San Juan Capistrano, Paragon Agency Publishers, Orange, CA., 1999

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Articles:

Coastline Dispatch, San Clemente, CA September 2, 1938 Coastline Dispatch, San Clemente, CA September 6, 1941 Coastline Dispatch, San Clemente, CA December 19, 1941 Coastline Dispatch, San Clemente, CA December 26, 1941 Coastline Dispatch, San Clemente, CA July 18, 1952 Coastline Dispatch, San Clemente, CA January 1953 Coastline Dispatch, San Clemente, CA February 7, 1957

Phil Brigandi, Santa Ana Court House, Archives: "Township Officers"

History of the Orange County Marshal's Department, 1947

Orange County Directory, 1939 Orange County Directory, 1941

Oral Interviews:

Meadows, T.J., San Juan Capistrano, CA (2008)

Gunter, David L., San Juan Capistrano, CA. (2008-2009)

10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of Property : less than one acre- see	property detail report
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)	
Zone Easting Northing Zone 1 3 2 1 5e	Easting Northing ee continuation sheet.
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet	et.)
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation shape)	heet.)
11. Form Prepared By	
name/title llse M. Byrnes	
organization Historian	date June 30, 2008
street & number P.O.Box 1029	telephone (949) 493-4222
city or town San Juan Capistrano	state CA zip code 92693
Additional Documentation	
Submit the following items with the completed form:	
Continuation Sheets	
Maps	digating the propertyle legation
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) inc	incating the property's location.
A Sketch map for historic districts and pro	operties having large acreage or numerous resources.
Photographs	
Representative black and white photogra	aphs of the property.
Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)	
Property Owner	
(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)	
Name : Thomas J. Meadows Trust	
street & number: 31241 Andres Pico Rd.	telephone _(949) 493-2606
city or town: San Juan Capistrano	state CA zip code _92675

Name of Property: Carl Stroschein House

County and State Orange, CA

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.0. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Verbal Boundary Description:

The house is located on a lot that is 60' on the West Side, 120' on the North Side, 60' on the East Side and 105' on the South Side.

The house faces El Camino Real on the West Side, the North Side of the property is along Spring Street. The rest of the property is surrounded by undeveloped property and a parking lot on the South side.

APN: 124-170-08

Legal Description: TR 103 LOT 12 POR OF LOT 59

Country FIPS: 60

Census Tract/Block 0423121

Legal Lot: 12

The lot is a rectangular parcel (0.153 Acres)

Lot Frontage and Rear: 60'
Lot Depth: Northside: 140'
Southside: 105 '

S. S. M. M. M. J. J. J. C.

Verbal Boundary Justification:

The nominated property includes the entire parcel associated with the Carl Stroschein House.

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Figure Log

Figure 1: Historic photo of William Stroschein farm taken from Spring Street facing southwest, year unknown. Garage of Carl Stroschein house is visible on the middle right.

Figure 2: Students at San Juan School, 1917. Carl Stroschein is the fifth person from the left in the back row, wearing suspenders.

Figure 3: Carl Stroschein (left) and Alfonso Yorba at Mission San Juan, circa 1940.

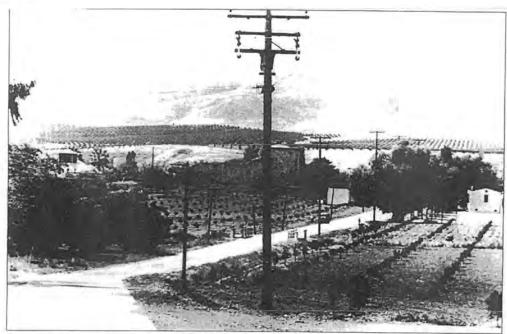
Figure 4: Carl Stroschein with Alicia Watson (standing), Marie Gunter Stroschein, Carl's daughter (seated, hidden by Stroschein) and friend Phyllis Rogers (seated.) Date of photo unknown.

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Figure 1



Spring Street, next to San Juan School, still exists as a dead end less than a block long. But at one time it was the main road out of town heading east and was a shortened form of Hot Springs Road. The newly planted orange groves of the Stroschein Ranch are shown, with the dome of the Great Stone Church in the background (center).

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION	
PROPERTY Stroschein, Carl, Ho NAME:	use
MULTIPLE NAME:	
STATE & COUNTY: CALIFORNIA, Or	ange
DATE RECEIVED: 9/04/09 DATE OF 16TH DAY: 10/03/09 DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:	DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/18/09 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/18/09
REFERENCE NUMBER: 09000823	
REASONS FOR REVIEW:	
OTHER: N PDIL: N PE	NDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N RIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N R DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N
COMMENT WAIVER: N	
RETURNRE	JECT 10.14.09 DATE
ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:	
Entered The National of Historic P	Register
RECOM./CRITERIA	
REVIEWER	DISCIPLINE
TELEPHONE	DATE
DOCUMENTATION see attached comm	ents Y/N see attached SLR Y/N
If a nomination is returned to	the nominating authority, the

nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.































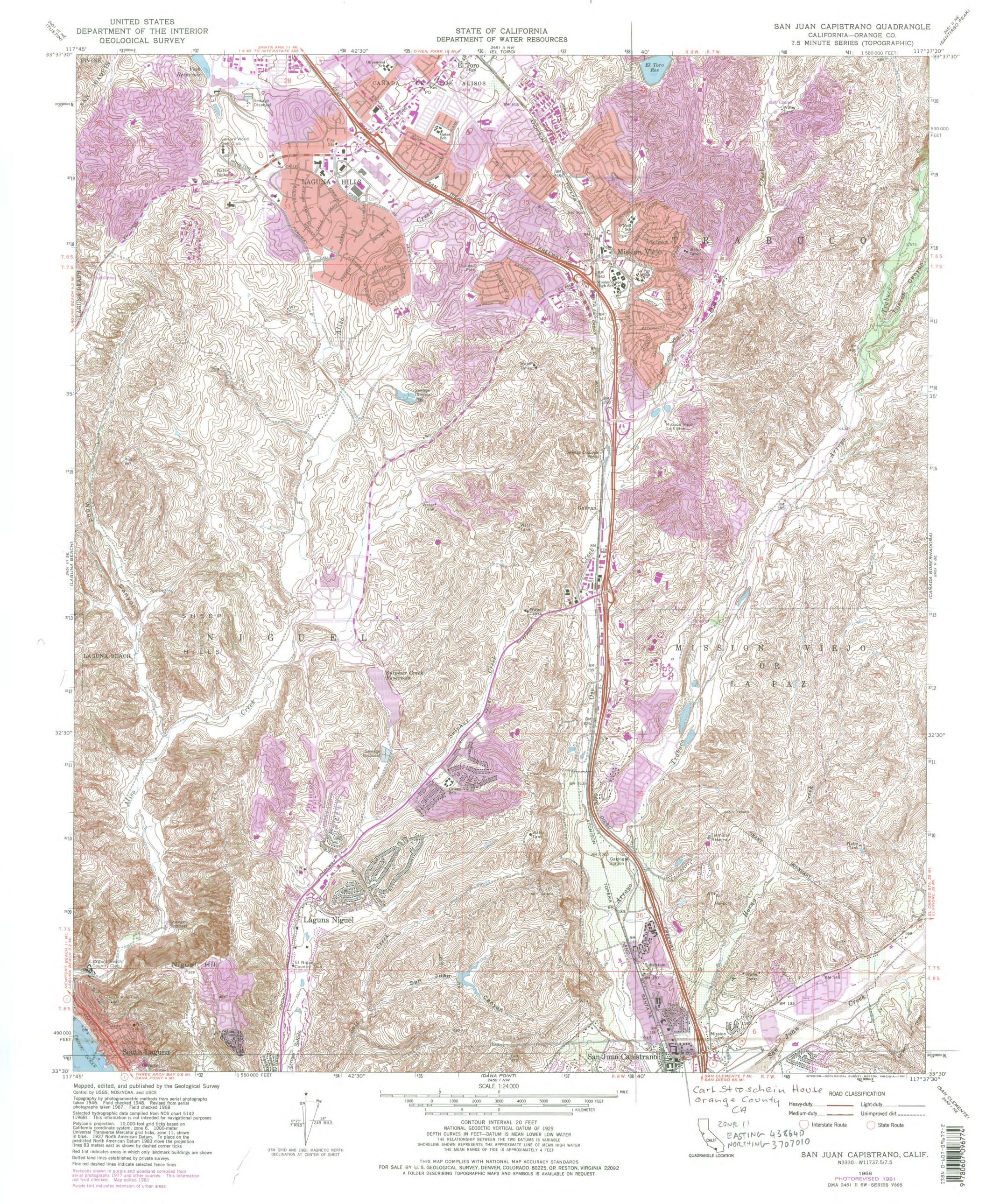












Carl Stroschein House San Juan Capistrano Orange County Staff Evaluation

The Carl Stroschein House is a vernacular house with some Tudor elements, constructed in 1927. It is located on the corner of El Camino Real and Spring Street, on a small lot that was once part of a 40 acre farm. The building is a rectangular wood-framed house with false bevel drop siding and two prominent cross gables. The front cross gable is steeply pitched with a flared eave. A small, offset porch with arched entry and arched window is located under the front gable roof. Fenestration consists of wood-framed sash windows. A brick chimney is located on the north side of the house. The building is essentially unmodified since its construction and retains a high degree of integrity.

The Carl Stroschein House is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B for its association with Carl Stroschein, the last elected constable of San Juan Township. The house was Stroschein's home and office, built by himself and his brother Fred. The period of significance is 1938-1953, the period when Stroschein was Constable. Mr. Stroschein was a lifelong resident of San Juan Capistrano, working on a farm originally owned by his father William Stroschein, where the Carl Stroschein House is located.

For fifteen years, Stroschein was the city's chief law enforcement officer, responsible for public safety in San Juan Capistrano and a large portion of unincorporated southern Orange County. During World War II, Stroschein was responsible for organizing civil defense, including construction of an observation tower, organization of a civilian defense council, and classes in first aid and bomb disposal. Carl Stroschein was re-elected to the position of Constable twice, holding the post for longer than any other Constable of San Juan Township. He retired from the position when Orange County reorganized and consolidated its court system. After retiring from his position as constable, Stroschein returned to farming until his death in 1957.

The property is nominated by Ilse Byrnes, historian, and the nomination is supported by the building owner, the Thomas J. Meadows Trust.

Staff recommends the State Historical Resources Commission determine that the Carl Stroschein House meets National Register Criterion B at the local level of significance and recommend the State Historic Preservation Officer approve the nomination for forwarding to the National Park Service for listing in the National Register.

William Burg Historian I April 21, 2009 T. J. Meadows 31241 Andres Pico Rd. San Juan Capistrano, Ca. 92675



July 11, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: "Yellow House/Carl Stroschein House Address 31682 El Camino Real San Juan Capistrano, Ca. 92675

As owner of the Carl Stroschein property, also known as the "Little Yellow House", I am in agreement with the other family members of the T. J. Meadows trust, that this house be added to the National Register of Historic Places.

We have all discussed this and feel that placing our house on this list will help to preserve the Stroschein family home and our heritage.

Sincerely,

T. J. Meadows

OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

P.O. BOX 942896 SACRAMENTO, CA 94296-0001 (916) 653-6624 Fax: (916) 653-9824 calshpo@ohp.parks.ca.gov

September 3, 2009

Ms. Jan Matthews, Keeper National Register of Historic Places National Park Service 2280 1201 I (Eye) Street, NW Washington, DC 20005



Subject:

Carl Stroschein House

San Juan Capistrano, Orange County, California

National Register of Historic Places

Dear Ms. Matthews:

Enclosed please find the **Carl Stroschein House** nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. This property is located in San Juan Capistrano, Orange County, California. On July 31, 2009, the State Historical Resources Commission unanimously found the property eligible for the National Register under Criterion B at the local level of significance.

The property is nominated on behalf of the property owner, the Thomas J. Meadows Trust.

If you have any questions regarding this nomination, please contact William Burg of my staff at 916-653-8936.

Sincerely

Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosures